

Andrew Jackson to Tennessee General Assembly, April 11, 1796, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JACKSON'S REMONSTRANCE TO THE ASSEMBLY OF TENNESSEE.¹

¹ This paper is preserved in the Jackson MSS., at the end of 1796.

[April 11, 1796.]

To the assembly of the State of Tennessee

The Remonstrance of Andrew Jackson of the District of Mero Sheweth. That your Remonstrant, in the year Seventeen hundred and Eighty nine was appointed by the General assembly of the State of North Carolina Attorney for and in behalf of the State for the District of Mero, and a compensation of forty pounds annexed to said appointment for each Court your Remonstrant should attend.

That your remonstrant by Virtue of the said appointment and under a law of North Carolina passed in 1786 Chapter the Eight, has received from the State of North Carolina the sum of forty pounds per Court, and continued to receive the same untill the Organization of the Territorial Government by Virtue of Cession made by North Carolina to the Congress of the United States, under which Government your Remonstrant received the appointment of attorney for and in behalf of the State for the District of Mero from William Blount Governor in and over the said Territory, and accepted of the same under an Idea that your remonstrant would receive the same compensation for his Services from the General or Territorial Government as he had received from the State of North Carolina but particularly from the Territorial Government as the Cession Act recognized and enforced the laws of

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North Carolina and attach to the appointment the compensation of forty pounds for each Court the attorney Should attend.

Your remonstrant represent that he has called upon Congress (by remonstrance) for the payment of the stipend annexed to the appointmt. agreeable to the laws of North Carolina and at the last Session of Congress it was acted upon and no compensation whatsoever was allowed.

Your remonstrant further shew that he performed the duties of Attorney General for the District of Mero for and in behalf of the Territory from May Term 1792, untill the expiration of [the] Territorial government by Virtue of the before mentioned appointment, and executed the duties of said office, and has not received any compensation for the same.

Your remonstrant further Shew that by a law passed by the Legislature of North Carolina at there Second Session in Eighty four, and third chapter of Said Session, it was enacted, that all Taxes upon Suits, fines, and forfeitures Should remain a Tax, appropriated to the Sole purpose of the payment of the Saleries allowed by Law to the Judges of the Superior Courts, and Attorney General; that, under that Law the monies arising from Suits, fines, and forfeitures, in the District of Mero ought to have been converted to the payment of the Stipend, due your remonstrant for his Services as attorney for the said District, the Judges being paid by the General Government.

Your Remonstrant represent, that there was a Sufficient Sum, arising from Taxes on Suits, fines, and forfeitures, within the District to have paid the Sum due your remonstrant, which have been converted to the payment of the General expences of the Territory.

Your remonstrant further represent that agreeable to the law of North Carolina enforced by the cession act he is entitled to the sum of forty pounds per Court, for each Court he has attended, and as the monies arising from Taxes on Suits, fines, and forfeitures, have been converted to the use of the Territory, which by the law of North Carolina passed in Eighty four ought to have been converted to the payment of the Stipend due to your remonstrant,

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Your remonstrant declares that it is the duty of the assembly (and agreeable to Justice and Equity so they ought to do) to appropriate other publick monies within the District of Mero, to the payment of the Debt, so Justly owing to your remonstrant